

Morris-Butler House
1204 North Park Avenue
Indianapolis
Marion County
Indiana

HABS NO. IND-52

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
reduced copies of measured drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

MORRIS-BUTLER HOUSE

Location: 1204 North Park Avenue, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana

Present Owner: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

Present Occupant: Rental units in third floor and in carriage house

Present Use: Main floors: Historic house museum

Statement of Significance: The house is one of a few surviving examples in Indianapolis of a mid-nineteenth century Victorian house, French and Italianate in its architectural details, built for a successful businessman of the period and his family

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Dates of erection: 1864. John D. Morris bought the land on 27 July 1864, as may be seen in the partial chain of title following. The city directory for 1865, presumably based upon information true in 1864, is the first to list him living on North Park Avenue, then called Jackson Street (Indianapolis City Directory for 1865, Hawes & Company, Indianapolis, 1865; "Map of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana," published by Wiley & Martin Real Estate Brokers Second Edition, 1864). Agnes McCulloch Hanna ("Old Houses in Indiana", Indianapolis Star, 7 Apr. 1929) says only that Morris "decided to build in 1863". It would seem, then, that construction would have been in progress during the latter part of 1864--possibly also continuing during the earlier portion of 1865.
2. Architect: Not known. Hanna, in the newspaper article mentioned above, attributes the house to Dietrich Bohlen. Mr. Melvin Meyer of the successor architectural firm of Bohlen, Meyer, Gibson and Associates told the present writer on 14 July, 1971 that he believes that Bohlen was the architect, but that he has seen no evidence--such as drawings or letters--in possession of the firm to this effect.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of property. 127.5 feet by parallel lines off the entire south side of Lot 122 in Ovid Butler's Addition to College Corner, now in the City of Indianapolis, as per plat thereof, recorded in Plat Book 2, page 71, in the Office of the Recorder of Marion County, Indiana.

- 1864 Warranty Deed 27 July 1864, recorded 1 Aug. 1864 in HABS
Deed Record Town Lots 23, p. 55. IND.
Jacob Hoss, Sr., and Jane Hoss, his wife, and
Perry T.B. Rhoades and Julia A.S. Rhodes signed 49. IND
Rhoades, his wife 9.
to
John D. Morris
Out Lot 112. For \$2,000.
- 1874 Mortgage 19 Mar. 1874, recorded 19 Mar. 1874 in
Mortgage Record 59, p. 528.
John D. Morris and Martha A. Morris, his wife
to
The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company
Out Lot 112. One principal note of \$11,500 at five
years and ten coupon notes of \$517.50 each at 6,
12, 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 54 and 60 months respectively
all dated 19 March 1874 at 10% per annum "after
maturity, and Attorney's fees." (Noted that mortgage
was satisfied 17 Apr. 1881).
- 1878 Assignee's deed 20 June 1878, recorded 22 June 1878
in Deed Record Town Lots 116, p. 25.
Davies M. Greene, Assignee in Bankruptcy
to
James W. Morris
Greene was appointed by the U.S. District Court for
the District of Indiana for the Estate of John D.
Morris, bankrupt. Greene sold Lot 112 for \$75. Other
real estate was also sold to John W. Morris; total
price paid was \$230.
- 1878 In the Superior Court of Marion County
Cause No. 22649, Complaint filed 25 July 1878
Complete Record 44, p. 592.
Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company
vs.
John D. Morris, Martha A. Morris, First National Bank
of Indianapolis, Alfred Harrison, John C.S. Harrison,
and James W. Morris
Suit to foreclose mortgage. Judgment on 29 Oct. 1878
was that the plaintiff's mortgage had first lien.
Judgment was rendered for \$13,348.12 and costs.
Decree was entered for foreclosure of plaintiff's
mortgage and sale of the mortgaged premises.
Order Book 71, p. 62
Decree came to Sheriff 7 Nov. 1878. He advertised
and sold the real estate 30 Nov. 1878, fee simple, to
Jacob L. Greene, for \$3,636.82. Certificate of
sale issued to purchaser. Execution Docket 27, p. 6.
- 1880 Tax Deed 18 Feb. 1880, recorded 21 Feb. 1880 in
Deed Record Town Lots 131, p. 288.
The City of Indianapolis, by W. G. Wasson, Treasurer,

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by J. Craven, Mayor
to
The First National Bank of Indianapolis
Lot 112 was sold 18 Jan. 1879 in the name of
John D. Morris for the non-payment of street
assessment.

1881 Quit Claim Deed 22 Jan. 1881. Recorded 27 Jan. 1881
in Deed Record Town Lots 137, p. 600.
The First National Bank of Indianapolis, Wm. H.
Morrison, President
to
Noah Armstrong
Lot 112.

1881 Sheriff's Deed 24 Jan. 1881, recorded 27 Jan. 1881 in
Deed Record Town Lots 139, p. 265
Henry C. Adams, Sheriff
to
Noah Armstrong (of state of Montana)
Out Lot 112. Sold 30 Nov. 1878 in pursuance to a
judgment and decree rendered 29 Oct. 1878, Cause
No. 22649.

Note: This deed recites that the sheriff's
certificate of sale was duly assigned from Jacob L.
Greene to the First National Bank of Indianapolis
on Dec. 24, 1878 who duly assigned said certificate
to Noah Armstrong on 24 Jan. 1881.

1881 Warranty Deed 7 Oct. 1881, recorded 19 Oct. 1881 in
Deed Record Town Lots 145, p. 616.
Noah Armstrong and Hannah Armstrong, his wife
to
Noble C. Butler
Lot 112. For \$12,276.17.

1888 Tax Deed 20 Feb. 1888, recorded 20 Feb. 1888 in
Deed Record Town Lots 198, p. 187.
Thomas Taggart, Auditor of Marion County
to
Noble C. Butler
Lot 112. Sold on 13 Feb. 1879 in the name of
John D. Morris, for non-payment of taxes, costs and
charges for the years 1877 and 1878.

1888 Tax Deed 20 Feb. 1888, recorded 20 Feb. 1888 in
Deed Record Town Lots 198, p. 189.
Thomas Taggart, Auditor of Marion County
to
Noble C. Butler
Lot 112. Sold on 12 Feb. 1879, in the name of
John D. Morris, for non-payment of City taxes,
costs and charges for the years 1877 and 1878.

(This and the other Tax Deed of 20 Feb. 1888 appear 9.
to have been executed to clear the title in preparation
for the following transaction).

- 1888 Warranty Deed 24 Feb. 1888, recorded 24 Feb. 1888 in
Deed Record Town Lots 198, p. 250.
Noble C. Butler and Annie B. Butler, his wife
to
Marshall D. Williamson
65 feet of the north side of Lot 112.

Note: No record exists at the Marion County
Recorder's Office of the death of Annie B. Butler or
of proceedings dissolving her marriage to Noble C.
Butler.

- 1933 Noble C. Butler died testate 7 Oct. 1933.
- 1933 Will of Noble C. Butler dated 6 May 1929, probated
17 Oct. 1933 in Will Record TT, p. 156.
All real estate was devised to daughter, Florence
Butler.
- 1933 Probate of the Court of Marion County, 17 Oct. 1933.
Estate Docket 97, p. 33708
Order Book 170, p. 468.
Final Report Record 101, p. 241.
127-1/2 feet on the south side of in-Lot 112 of
Butler's College Corner Addition and Lots 2 and 3
in Block 5 of S.A. Fletcher, Jr.'s, North East
Addition to the City of Indianapolis.
- 1938 Affidavit dated 4 Jan. 1938. Recorded 4 Jan. 1938 in
Town Lot Record 983, p. 79 Inst. #202
Purpose of document listing Florence Butler as liable
for taxation for the real estate.
- 1958 Florence Butler died intestate 7 Jan. 1958.
- 1958 Probate Court of Marion County
Estate Docket 175, p. 65151 9 Jan. 1958.
American Fletcher Bank and Trust Co. appointed as
administrator
Order Book 424, p. 433.
Schedule of property includes 127-1/2 feet South
side Lot 112.
- 1959 Probate Court of Marion County
Estate Docket 175, p. 65151
Petition to sell real estate 26 Oct. 1959.
Order authorizing sale of real estate 13 Nov. 1959.
Order confirming sale and approving deed, 4 Dec. 1959

to Robert M. Pace, who designated Dan E. Young to receive the conveyance. For \$8,000. Order Book 49 IND 479, p. 8. 9.

1959 Administrator's Deed 4 Dec. 1959, recorded 8 Dec. 1959 in Deed Record 1784, p. 226 Inst. #91265
American Fletcher National Bank, Administrator of the Estate of Florence Butler, deceased
to
Dan E. Young
127.5 feet taken by parallel lines off the entire south side of Lot 112.

1959 Warranty Deed, 4 Dec. 1959, recorded 20 Jan. 1960 in Deed Record 1790, p. 316, Inst. #4680.
Dan E. Young and Shirley J. Young, his wife
to
Willis K. Kunz
An undivided 1/2 interest in 127.5 feet by parallel lines off the entire south side of Lot 112.

1960 Mortgage 11 Apr. 1960, recorded 13 Apr. 1960 in Mortgage Record 2036 p. 170 Inst. #26256
Dan E. Young and Shirley Young, his wife, and Willis K. Kunz and Patsy M. Kunz, his wife
to
Peoples Bank and Trust Company
For \$8000. Mortgage due in full on 11 Apr. 1968.

1964 Warranty Deed, 23 Dec. 1964, recorded 8 Jan. 1965 Deed Record, Inst. #65-1086
Robert M. Pace, unmarried
to
Historic Landmarks Foundation, Inc.

4. Builder or contractor, suppliers: Hanna gives John Clements as the builder and contractor ("Old Houses in Indiana", Indianapolis Star, 7 Apr. 1929).
5. Original plan and construction: Inspection of the cellar indicates that the house was built all at one time, for all the outer foundation walls are stone and all partition walls are brick.

From the cellar, inspection of the first floor joists revealed rotary saw cut marks on joists and on subflooring and machine-cut nails. The nail heads were hexagonal and had a reticulated surface pattern on them.

6. Alterations and additions: The following information was obtained by the present writer in conversation with Robert Braun, executive director of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, present owners of the house. Mr. V

Braun has been connected with the Foundation during the time when alterations and restoration were in progress.

During 1959-1964, the house was used as an avant garde art gallery. Previously the first floor had been very crudely wired for electricity; the rest was unwired. Some additional wiring was installed for the art gallery and heating was still by the old brick furnace, piped for gas.

In 1964, when the Historic Landmarks Foundation took ownership, a program of restoration and renovation was begun which continued through the 1960's. A new slate roof was installed--plain gray, matching the original roof, with copper flashing and gutters. The exterior brick was cleaned and sealed. The summer kitchen at the rear was carefully photographed, dismantled because it was unsafe, and rebuilt matching the original, using the inner blocks of the original wall for the exterior wall faces with a concrete-block back-up. The house was wired for electricity and a new heating and air conditioning system was installed. This work entailed construction of many ducts in the walls, on which old registers salvaged from other buildings of the period were placed. Most of the house had only plank flooring, for the original hardwood flooring had apparently never been installed except in the large parlor. A Cistern at the rear of the house, between the summer kitchen and the west wall of the house, was filled in. It appears that the present entrance vestibule may have originally had a second set of doors where the inner archway is now. The etched glass of the entrance doors is a replacement of the original, reproducing the original design. The transom above is probably original. The cellar had a dirt floor. The Historic Landmarks Foundation has completely finished the cellar for use as meeting rooms. A suspended acoustical ceiling has been installed, modern lighting, etc. The restoration has been done with the purpose not of representing a particular house but a typical house furnished as might have been found around 1875. H. Roll McLaughlin of James Associates served as restoration architect.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Building:

John D. Morris was listed in city directories published in 1865 though 1872 as a railroad freight agent (Indianapolis City Directory for 1865, Hawes & Company, Indianapolis, 1865; Edwards' Annual Director to the inhabitants, etc., in the City of Indianapolis for 1865-6, Indianapolis, 1866; Edwards' Annual Director.....for 1867, Indianapolis, 1867; Logan's Indianapolis Directory 1872, ending March 1873, Indianapolis, 1872). No occupation is given for him in the following directory (Swartz & Tedrowe's Indianapolis City Directory for

1873, Indianapolis, 1873). The directory published in 1874 lists him as vice president of the Capitol City Planing Mill (Swartz & Tedrowe's Indianapolis City Directory for 1874, Indianapolis, 1874). For the next four years he is listed as being with Glazier and Morris, a business dealing in coal, coke, and lime (Swartz and Tedrowe's Indianapolis City Directory for 1875, Indianapolis, 1875; Swartz & Tedrowe's for 1876, Indianapolis, 1876; S.E. Tilford & Co.'s Indianapolis City Directory, 1877, ending February 1878, Indianapolis, 1877; R.L. Polk & Co.'s Indianapolis City Directory for 1878, Indianapolis 1878).

James W. Morris, who is mentioned in the deed and the court action of 1878 (complete Record 44, p. 592) is listed in the previously mentioned city directories published in 1873 and 1874 as living in the house. In the former directory, his occupation is given as "clerk, Hanna, Caldwell & Co." and in the latter directory as a member of the firm of Roll and Morris, carpets, wallpaper, and window shades. Charles G. Morris also lived in the house for the same years and was with Haskit and Morris, wholesale and retail druggists, according to the city directories published in 1873 and 1874. Other directories were not checked for James W. nor Charles G. Morris.

Hanna states that John D. Morris was one of five sons of the pioneer Morris Morris and had a wife and three children. His brother, Capt. Thomas A. Morris, lived nearby ("Old Houses in Indiana", Indianapolis Star, 7 April 1929). "Engineer Thomas A. Morris was largely responsible for the planning and building of the Union Depot"--the first building bearing that name, which was completed in Indianapolis in 1853. (Emma Lou Thornbrough, Indiana in the Civil War era, 1850-80, Indianapolis, 1965). John D. Morris was a member of the Marions, one of the fire companies of the city. "In the early times membership in a fire company was almost a badge of good citizenship for the able-bodied" (Jacob Piatt Dunn, Greater Indianapolis, Chicago, 1910, Vol. 1, p. 170).

City directories published in 1882 and 1915 list Noble C. Butler's occupation as clerk, U.S. Courts ((R.L. Polk's Indianapolis Directory for 1882, Indianapolis, 1882; R.L. Polk's Indianapolis Directory for 1915, Indianapolis, 1915). In 1897 Butler is described as vice president of Capitol National Bank and as a vice president of The Contemporary Club, a leading literary society organized in 1890 and open to men and women on equal terms. Its membership numbered two hundred "intellectuals" and it met at the Propylaeum (Max Hyman, Handbook of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, 1897).

Hanna (Indianapolis Star, 7 Apr. 1929) gives 1882 as the date of Butler's purchase of the house. The deed is dated 1881 (Deed Record Town Lots 145, p. 616).

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Complete Record 44.

Deed Record 1784, 1790, Instrument No. 65-1086.

Deed Record Town Lots 23, 116, 131, 137, 139, 145, 198, 983.

Mortgage Record 59, 2036

Probate Court of Marion County, Estate Docket 175.

Probate Court of Marion County, Order Book 170.

Will Record TT.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Conversation, 14 July 1971, with Melvin Meyer of Bohlen, Mayer, Gibson & Associates, Inc., Architects, Indianapolis, the successor firm to Dietrick A. Bohlen.

Coversation, 25 July 1971, with Robert Braun, Executive Director of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. Greater Indianapolis. Chicago, 1910.

Edwards' Annual Director for the Inhabitants, etc., in the City of Indianapolis for 1865-6. Indianapolis, 1866.

Edwards Annual Director for the Inhabitants, etc....for 1867. Indianapolis, 1867.

Hanna, Agnes McCulloch. "Old Houses in Indiana". Indianapolis Star, 7 Apr. 1929.

Hyman, Max. Handbook of Indianapolis. Indianapolis, 1897.

Indianapolis City Directory for 1865. Hawes & Co. Indianapolis, 1865.

Logan's Indianapolis Directory. Indianapolis, 1868.

"Map of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana." Published by Wiley and Martin, Real Estate Brokers. Second Edition, 1864.

R. L. Polk & Co.'s Indianapolis Directory for 1878. Indianapolis, 1878.

R. L. Polk.....for 1882. Indianapolis, 1882.
R. L. Polk.....for 1883. Indianapolis, 1883.
R. L. Polk.....for 1915. Indianapolis, 1915.
S. E. Tilford & Co.'s Indianapolis City Directory 1877,
ending February 1878. Indianapolis, 1877.
Swartz & Tedrowe's Indianapolis City Directory 1872,
ending March 1873. Indianapolis, 1872.
Swartz & Tedrowe's Indianapolis Directory, 1873.
Indianapolis, 1873.
Swartz.....1874. Indianapolis, 1874.
Swartz.....1875. Indianapolis, 1875.
Swartz.....1876. Indianapolis, 1876.
Thornborough, Emma Lou, Indiana in the Civil War Era,
1850-1880. Indianapolis, 1975.

D. Likely sources not yet investigated: None known.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank
Architectural Historian
Iowa State University
August 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The residence is an excellent example of a mid-Victorian house employing French and Italianate architectural details. It is monumental, picturesque, well detailed and sited; located on the near north side of Indianapolis. The central element of the building mass is a tower centered on the facade, 4-1/2 stories in height and surmounted by a mansard roof which recalls the mansarded elements of the main block.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 46'0" x 71'10". Number of bays: Three distinct units on the facade (east elevation). Number of stories: Two stories with a mansard at the

front (east) unit and two stories with a gable to the rear. A single story summer kitchen with a gable roof is attached to the west end of the house. Layout, shape: The house is composed of three distinct units as indicated in the above statement. Thus the shape in plan is an irregular rectangle with the units becoming smaller and lower in silhouette from the front (east) to the back (west). HABS IND. 49. IND

2. Foundations: Rock faced stone alid up in an ashlar coursing with a beveled cut limestone cap defines the facade (east elevation) and the south elevations of the front unit. The remaining stone walls are similar except that they do not have the beveled stone cap. The foundations are in excellent condition. 9.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick walls laid up in a common bond with no header courses. Bricks are 2-1/4" x 3-3/4" x 8-1/4" with 3/8" flush mortar joints.
4. Structural system, framing: Masonry wall bearing with wooden joists. Exterior walls in the basement are of stone. Most interior bearing walls are of brick. First floor joists are 2 x 12 x 16" on center, bearing at above the basement floor. Second floor framing is similar; however, it is not possible to gain visual access to the structural system. It is especially difficult to experience the framing system elsewhere in the house.
5. Porches, stoops and bulkheads:

Stoop (main bulkhead, east elevation): Six stone risers with a simple iron railing. Doorway is recessed (cf., doorways and doors).

Porch (southeast corner of house): One story, wooden, three bay (east elevation) by one bay deep (south elevation). Brick piers with diagonal wooden latticework spandrels with a wood deck supports wooden pedestals with balusters and railings between bases. Square wooden chamfered corner columns (half columns at masonry walls) support a bracketed entablature. Arched openings below entablature center bay (east elevation) has greater span. Pedestals with balustrade and railing at roof deck. Pedestals are centered over the columns at first floor. Porch ceiling is paneled with all wooden elements painted grey.

Sout porch (south elevation center block): Two storied wood porch recessed under the gable roof of the center unit of the house. Porch is four bays by one, with square columns, chamfered corners at the first floor and turned columns at the second story. Wooden turned baluster with railings at first and second floor. Wooden entablatures with dentil blocks define second floor and gable roof. Ornate wopen wooden spandrels are located ✓

from column to column at heads of first and second floor porches. Two broad open wood stairways give access to the porch on the south elevation and a second one on the north.

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A third porch: One story one bay wooden platform with an open railing is located on the north elevation. A single flight of wooden stairs gives access to the porch.

6. Chimneys: There are six brick chimneys located in the structure. One is located at the northwest corner of the tower and penetrates the mansard roof. Two are interior chimneys in the front block with the others being inside end chimneys.

7. Openings:

Doorways and doors: The front door (east elevation) is defined by a carved Indiana limestone frame, semi-circular headed with a scroll keystone. There is a deep recess, the sides and head are of wooden construction with wooden panels. The head is rectangular and is higher than the stone arch opening. The woodwork is painted grey green. There are a pair of hardwood doors, rectangular in shape with etched glass lights that are semi-circular and have two tiers of molded panels below the glazing. The transom is semi-circular with an etched glass light. The etched glass in the doors and transom has an urn and floral design. These etched glass panels were installed during the restoration work done in the 1960's.

The doors at the south porch (first and second floor), at the north porch, summer kitchen and out house are defined by segmental brick arches. The doors are rectangular four panel two tiered and painted grey green. The porch doors (south and north) have glazed transoms with three lights. The door to the summer kitchen has a single glazed light.

Windows and shutters: The windows have a great variety of head shapes and glazing.

Windows at the first floor (east elevation) north of the main entrance and the units on the one story bay on the north elevation are similar. They are semi-circular headed wooden double hung sash and painted a grey green. They are single light units and are defined by semi-circular brick arches. The windows in the tower are similar except they have four-over-four lights.

Most of the remaining windows in the front block of the house have segmental arched heads. They are double hung wooden sash with a variety of glazed panels. Those in the front unit are largely original and have one-over-one

to two-over-four. The two-over-four glazed lights occur in the units on the first floor (west elevation) where the lower sashes are longer than the upper sashes. HABS IND 44. IND 9.

The sash in the rear unit has six-over-six glazed panels and all of these windows have louvered wooden shutters painted black. These windows have rectangular headed sashes. There are four windows in the tower, one on each elevation.

The windows in the dormers are also wooden double hung two-over-two lights and are semi-circular headed and painted grey green.

Basement windows are wooden awning units.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The front unit of the house and tower have mansard roofs of slate. The rear units have gable roofs of slate.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The front unit has a bored cornice with small scroll brackets and a frieze. The cornice at the gabled roof units is a simple box expression with all elements being wooden and painted a grey green.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: The gabled dormers in the mansard roof are wooden and have triangular pediments with pilasters flanking the opening.

The towers is of brick construction four stories in height. The mansard roof is of slate with glazed eyebrow openings in each face of the roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

Basement: Central hall plan (east front to west), two rooms deep on the north and one space on the south plus a space at the west end of the basement.

First floor: Central hall plan (east to west) two rooms deep on the north with the front parlor and dining room and one room on the south of the central hallway. A second hallway (north-south) is located at the west end of the central hallway. A kitchen is located at the west end of the residence. The summer kitchen and out house are separate (to the west) but tied to the main block by a gable roof.

The following spaces are open to the public by appointment: HABS

Entry Hall:

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As one steps inside the large double doors with their etched glass windows, the first thing that is noticeable is the golden glow of the gaslight era. The chandeliers of the foyer and center hall radiate the aura of 1875.

The carpeting is of Spanish tiled design of 100 per cent wool and was woven to order in Formosa for this house. Of special note is the fact that as the carpet ascends the stairway, the tile pattern appears with exactness on each step.

To the rear (west) of the hall on the left is a large cabinet by Eastlake. The painting is a copy of a Rubens painted by the Indiana artist, T. C. Steele, in Munich. To the right of the entry foyer is a service bell pull complete with brass ring.

Family Sitting Room:

This is the room where the family really lived and conversed about the happenings of everyday life. Hanging from the ceiling is a bronze gas chandelier complete with cupid and dove to remind the occupants of upward-soaring thoughts, in keeping with the true Victorian ideal. Here again are the Spanish tiled design carpeting, lace curtains and the deep red velvet draperies with gold fringe and cord. A chair and footstool are cathedral gothic and covered with horsehair.

Dining Room:

The most outstanding feature of the dining room is the unusual chandelier which is signed and has bronze cupids complete with scales and tails, representing mythological characters. The dining table is solid cherry of Sheraton design. The sideboard was made especially for the house by a local cabinetmaker shortly after the Morrises moved in.

The silver set is Meridian silverplate and is on loan to the Museum from Mr. and Mrs. Reily G. Adams. Mrs. Adams is a great-granddaughter of the Morrises and the silver set has been in the family since it was used in this house.

Formal Parlor:

This room was reserved for special occasions such as

weddings, receptions, and Sunday visits from the minister. The elegance of the formal parlor is complemented by the Belter furniture from the New York City collection of Helena Rubenstein, famed beautician and art collector. This set included two matched Meridiennes. There are only three other sets of Belter Meridiennes in the United States. 49-IND 9.

The living room carpet was custom made in the 1960's, It has garnet roses on a cream background. The red oxide painted walls match the red roses. The wall color was found in old scrapings from the original wall surface of the parlor.

The draperies were designed and made in the 1960's by Messrs. J. Murray and Donald Emmete for the 14 foot wide bay windows after many hours of research of authentic Victorian hangings. The curtains are of rare lace from Switzerland and of a Victorian design.

The crystal chandelier has 1,791 single pieces of crystal and weighs 241 pounds. It was originally designed for candles. The piano is a Knabe complete with a needlepoint covered stool. The fireplace mantel is of light colored marble.

The large beveled-edged mirror hanging above it is surrounded by an intricate Florentine gold leaf frame of gessoed and wood base.

Inside Kitchen:

The focal point of this room is the wood-burning Radiant Windsor range which was the epitome in luxury. The floor is covered with worn "hand-me-down" Oriental rugs from the front portion of the house, which usually found their way into the servants' work areas after they were no longer presentable for family usage.

Typical of a work area, the kitchen did not have the modern gas chandeliers of the period. The servants still had to fill the kerosene founts and clean the chimneys of the more primitive lighting fixtures.

Summer Kitchen:

During the hot summer months, the heat from the kitchen stove was unbearable to the occupants of the house. As such, this summer kitchen served to make the house more livable. It had brick floors, a dry sink, and bare necessities of kitchen utensils. A scuttle in the ceiling permitted entry to the loft, where dried herbs and other items were stored.

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Hanging kerosene lamps are found in a work area.

Furnishings:

Parlor:

Painting by Jacob Cox
Furniture owned by Helena Rubenstein (Made by John H. Belter, New York--Rosewood)
Chandelier has 1,791 pieces of crystal (French)
What-not from V. T. Malott home (Banker I.N.B.--Walnut)
Draperies (80 yards from Rome--Damask)
Corner console (French 1820's)
Mirror from the Hubbard-Moxley home (Red Cross)
Fireplace from the Hubbard-Moxley home (Red Cross)

Hall:

Call card stand
Pier Mirror from Lafayette
Chairs from Cyrus McCormick home, Chicago (1860 French Victorian)
Console from Scotland
Large picture by T. C. Steel from F. M. Churchman Home, Beech Grove
Small picture by J. Cox from F. M. Churchman Home, Beech Grove
Sofa from V. T. Malott Home
Bookcase from Colonel Eli Lilly home (Black Walnut)
Large chandelier from Moxley home
Bust (Italian Marble)

Family Sitting Room:

Desk from home in Woodruff Place (Mahogany)
Bookcase (Walnut)
Sofa from V. T. Malott home
Chandelier with bronze cupids weighs 35 pounds
Pair of chairs with horsehair, rare Victorian Gothic
Portrait from F. M. Churchman home

Dining Room:

Banquet table Circa 1840 (Cherry)
Chairs Circa 1850 (Cherry)
Sideboard is an original piece from the Morris-Butler house
Server, English, Circa 1850
Mirror from the Hubbard-Moxley home
Chandelier Brussels Bronze (weight 265 pounds)
China, English, Circa 1840
China tea set Chelsea Circa 1810
Silver tea set original of the Morris-Butler house

Sterling silver flatware by Duhme Company, Cincinnati, Circa 1860
Cornice original of the Morris-Butler house

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Kitchen:

Cherry corner table
Cherry dropleaf table
China Edawas ironstone (Vine pattern) Circa 1840
Bone handle silver
Windsor comb back chair Massachusetts Circa 1760-1770

Summer Kitchen:

Pine dry sink
Walnut tavern table Circa 1760

Office:

All carpet is from Taiwan or Formosa, China
Lace curtains are from Switzerland
All lights are originals. There are no reproductions.

Second floor: East-west central hall plan with a pair of rooms on the north and south. This functions as a rental unit. Rear hallway at right angles to central hall with a bedroom at the west end of the residence over the kitchen.

Third floor: Central hall with a pair of rooms on the north and one on the south. This too functions as an apartment of the curator of the Museum.

2. Stairways: Basement: Stairway is an enclosed single flight with wooden risers and treads. Main stairway: It is an open well, two flight stairway that runs from the first to the third floor. The treads and risers, landings and adjacent hallway space are carpeted. The open stringer stairway has a continuous handrail and plain brackets. It appears to be yellow pine stained. Service stairway: This is an enclosed single flight wooden stairway and it too is carpeted. The walls and ceilings in these stairways are plastered and painted.
3. Flooring: Basement: Concrete and brick at stair hallway. First floor: Carpet in the parlor, front parlor, dining room and main hallway. Hardwood flooring in the other areas. Carpeting is not the original. Brick floors in summer kitchen and outhouse. Second floor: Carpet in bathroom and hallways. Hardwood in other spaces. Third floor: Wooden flooring installed during restoration.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Basement: The entire basement

is currently being renovated to serve as a series of conference rooms. Several of the existing walls of stone and brick are being painted. New walls are tongue and groove. Ceilings are acoustical tile drop in panels. First floor: Walls and ceilings are plastered and painted. Elaborate plaster cornice in parlor with an equally fine molded plaster design of leaves at the center of the ceiling. Simple plaster mold elements on the ceiling of the front parlor and stair hallway. Some of the molded plaster work is original. Some elements were taken from other houses and put in here in the 1960's. Second and third floors: Walls and ceilings are plastered and painted.

5. Doorways and doors: Basement: All of the doors and frames have been recently installed. Most are white pine, four panel, two tiered units. First floor: Door frames and wood work of the major spaces is yellow pine. 8'0" doors are six panel, three tiers and stained or painted. Doors at the rear of the house, first floor, are four panel, two tier units painted. Trim at the rear of the house is simple. Second floor: Doors and frames are painted. Most doors are 7'0", four panel, two tiered, with glazed transoms and simple trim. Third floor: Similar to second floor units but without transoms.
6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinet work: Fireplaces: The fireplace in the parlor is of marble, off white, and has a semicircular opening with a scroll keystone, simple jambs and floral designs in the spandrels and hearth of slate. It was originally in the Hubbard-Moxley House in Indianapolis and was installed during the recent restoration of this house. The fireplaces in the front parlor and dining room are identical cast iron units with semicircular openings. The keystones are expressed as cartouches and both have simple jambs and spandrels. Two of the second floor fireplaces are identical to the dining room fireplace but they are painted off white to match the color of the walls. The corner diagonal fireplaces in the south rooms on the second floor have cast iron openings, but the remaining elements are wooden.
7. Notable hardware: Ornate brass knobs and escutcheon plates on the doors at the first major rooms. Most of the remaining hardware appears to be of recent installation and manufacture.
8. Mechanical equipment: Heating: Modern gas forced air heating and air conditioning. Lighting: Modern electrical wiring with some very fine Victorian period fixtures. Plumbing: Outhouse adjacent to summer kitchen. All

other plumbing is modern. One fine marble topped lavatory on the first floor. Other fixtures are modern.

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D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The site is located on the northwest corner of East 12th Street and North Park Avenue. It is about 205'0" deep (east-west) with 125'0" frontage on Park Avenue. The facade of the house is the east elevation and is parallel to North Park Avenue. An alley defines the west property line and a brick wall defines the north property line. A simple iron fence defines the east and south property lines. Major walkways on the site are brick with gravel walks in the garden on the north side of the house. The site is very well maintained and has an excellent picturesque flower garden.
2. Outbuildings: A carriage house of recent construction (c. 1962) occupies a rear portion of the site and the offices of the Historic Landmarks Foundation are located in the structure.

Prepared by David R. Hermansen
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a cooperative project in 1970 between the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Historic American Buildings Survey. During this project, nine buildings in Indianapolis were measured and drawn, and sixteen more were recorded with professional photographs and written data.

The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Measured drawings were prepared by student architects under the direction of Professor David R. Hermansen, of Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana. Professor Wesley Shank of Iowa State University prepared the historical data, and Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. H. Roll McLaughlin, FAIA, State Preservation Coordinator, President of the Historic Landmarks Foundation, and member of the HABS Advisory Board, served as consultant throughout the project.